News-Pages of the GSWC

The Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County, Michigan, Inc. 28 June 2022
To Accompany *Family History Capers* Vol. 45 #4

GSWC Meetings are usually held at 1:30 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of the month, September to May (unless a holiday interferes). Currently we are meeting via Zoom for the health and safety of our members. We are asking everyone to register ahead of time to assist with tracking attendance.
If you are not a member, please send an email no less than three days before the event to info@washtenawgenealogy.org to request an invitation to register. Look at **our website:** https://www.washtenawgenealogy.org **or our Facebook page**: https://www.facebook.com/genealogywashtenaw.

Upcoming Meeting:

Sunday, September 25, 2022: "Migration Trails Across America" presented by Peggy Lauritzen.
Class: "The Essentials for New York Research" presented by Jane Wilcox.

Report on Recent Meetings:

April 24, 2022: "Scandalous Ancestors: Tracking Colorful Family Members" presented by Jessica Trotter**.** Ms. Trotter discussed tracing "scandalous" family. She also presented a case study featuring an unreliable ancestor who lived in 1860 Detroit and then in Logan County, Illinois.

Scandals can mean different things to different families, and may involve births, marriages, and deaths.

Ms. Trotter explained what resources she used including newspapers, vital records, city directories, occupational resources, court records, correctional records and diaries.

Ms. Trotter can be contacted at the following email: jmt.trotter@gmail.com

Reported by Janet Gilkey

Class: "Sources: The Good, the Bad & the Ugly" taught by Cynthia Grostick. Cynthia, a GSWC member and former MGC President, talked about kinds of sources and how to cite them.

She has a set of "Golden Rules of Sources". Her first is "Sources are only as good as the HUMAN who gave the information and the HUMAN who recorded the information." She defined the types of sources: primary, secondary, original, and derivative.

Her second golden rule is "Strive to find the original primary document."

Her third is "Cite your sources." Be consistent. She noted that the software program RootsMagic has citation templates.

Her handout is available on our website under "Member Only Downloads" shown in the submenu once you sign in.

Reported by Marcia McCrary

May 22, 2022: "The Polar Bear Soldiers of WWI" presented by Mike Grobbel who is the president of the Polar Bear Memorial Association.

At the end of WWI 5,000 men were sent to Russia serving the American North Russia Expeditionary Force, nicknamed Polar Bears. The Army crest for this group is the only one with words written in the Cyrillic alphabet. The men were sent because President Woodrow Wilson agreed to send troops to Russia to protect supplies sent to Archangel, and to rescue stranded Czech Legion troops at the end of the war. The 339th infantry, at Camp Custer (near Battle Creek, Michigan) was en route to another area in August 1918 when they were diverted and given Russian rifles and heavier clothing. Unfortunately, the Spanish flu was also transported along with them and killed 61of them in the first month.

Armistice was signed Nov. 11, 1918, but it did not end the fighting in North Russia. The final battle was April 5, 1919. The unit lost 231 men. All but 23 of the bodies were recovered. A monument was dedicated on Memorial Day 1930 in Troy, Michigan at the White Chapel Memorial Park Cemetery. Mike's handout is found at https://washtenawgenealogy.org/ under "Public Downloads", then "Program and Class Handouts".

Reported by Marcia McCrary

News-Pages of the GSWC (continued)

Class: "Breakout Rooms"
For the class, we divided into "Breakout Rooms" for a chance to share ideas with other members. The facilitators were: Cheryl Garnett, Mike Gerding, Janet Tarolli, Omer Jean Winborn, Judy Jackson, and Amy Lee. Their instructions were to have everyone introduce themselves, and then ask for research questions on which help was needed.

Some of the topics were:
Dorm Dickerson is trying to find early pictures of his house in Ann Arbor on N. Wagner Rd (Scio Twp.) Suggestions were to try looking at newspapers around the time when it was built. A webinar was mentioned called, "If these walls could talk" by Robert Myers, Director of Education for the Historical Society of Michigan.

Ernie Scott is seeking more people to help with transcribing and indexing letters on his website, Ernie's Michigan.

Caroline Smith asked for tips about New York research in the Rochester, NY area. Suggestion to look at the following website which covers more than just Fulton County. https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Fulton_County,_New_York_Genealogy.

Other questions asked were about the best source of Confederate military records; is the joint LDS/GSWC library open (answer: yes); where to find German church records, (see the article titled "Suggestions on the Use of Select German Genealogy Websites" found on our website under German SIG); when writing about your ancestors which is better, beginning with yourself or your ancestor (do what makes more sense to you); how to cite a JPG/photograph as a source (https://www.wikihow.com/Source-an-Image)

Reported by Marcia McCrary

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GSWC Items:
Donated Books Project
Sixty-five books are to be added to the GSWC library from the large donation of genealogy and genealogical/historical books from the late Nancy Krohn, a long-time member of GSWC. The books that are not eligible for inclusion in the library are being distributed to members and organizations that will put them to good use. The titles to be added to our library will be announced at a later date.

Notes from the Board:
The next **GSWC Board Meeting** is Tuesday, July 12, 2022, from 2 to 4 p.m., via Zoom. For more information on the agenda and how to attend, send an email to Nancy Howard: president@washtenawgenealogy.org.

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The **German Special Interest Group** will meet on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, at 2 p.m. via Zoom. For more information contact Mike Gerding, GermanSIG@comcast.net.

The **DNA Special Interest Group** will soon set their next fall Zoom meeting date. Contact Rodger Wolf, rawolf@umich.edu for more information.

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The **Annual Meeting** of the **GSWC** was held on Sunday, May 22, 2022 on Zoom.

Slate of officers elected for 2022–2024:

President: Nancy Howard
First Vice-President: Janet Tarolli
Corresponding Secretary: Rob Steward
At-Large Board Members (2 year term):
Rebecca Carver
Cheryl Garnett
Mike Gerding
And At-Large Board Member (1 year term): Cyndy Steward (to restore the balance of At-Large members being elected)
Nominating Committee 2022–2023 year:
Linda Williams
Tim Salatin
Marcia McCrary

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The GSWC has a critical need for volunteers to fill the following positions:

Librarian
News-Pages Editor
Capers Editorial Team

Please contact Nancy Howard: president@washtenawgenealogy.org.

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News-Pages Editors:	
Marcia McCrary	734-483-2799 marciamccrary@aol.com
Judi Bornemeier	bornannarbor@sbcglobal.net
Janet Gilkey	(Meeting Lecture Reporter)